1:Haskins K-4,5 (1952-1954)1956 SO11 Bahia Brazilians SO11

258 The manioc mill, called a casa de farinha, is found in most parts of
407 the Recôncavo except the sugar cane zone. At the mill the root of the manioc is scraped with a knife in order to remove the rough skin. It is then shredded by being held against a roughened rotating cylinder which is turned by a belt attached to a large wheel and crank. The crank is rotated by one or two workers, except in the few mills where small electric motors are attached. The shredded manioc, which has the appearance of moist sawdust, is shoveled into a press made of a hollowed log, and a lid is forced into the press in such a way that the juices
• [401] are expelled through the holes in the sides and bottom. The necessary force is applied by means of a long lever drawn down with a large wooden screw jack. After the lid is forced downward as far as possible, the pressure is maintained until there is no perceptible leakage of
258 poisonous juices. In none of the mills observed in the area or described
[171] in the literature of the Recôncavo was the leaching process used, as is the practice in some other areas of Brazil. From the press the manioc is thrown upon the top of an earthenware stove where it is agitated until the remaining manihotoxine is volatilized and the flour is dry. The juices which have been expelled from the press usually are caught in flat pans which are then placed in the sun. Settling and evaporation produce a pasty residue of starch--tapioca--which is dried into thin sheets.

These mills are small, one-press operations carried on in enclosed adobe and thatch sheds. They are scattered over the countryside wherever manioc is grown. The 1940 census enumerated 200 casas de farinha in the Recôncavo, but the number must now be a good deal greater. In 1940 Cruz das Almas, according to the census, had no farinha mills, but in 1953 more than a dozen were observed. The number of mills is large not only because the capacity of each is limited